

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-11 USIA-06

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01 /080 W

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R 061904Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1002

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDA/FAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BAGB, EAGR, EPAP, EEWT, UY

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRADE IN MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

(C-ER-6-59780)

REF: STATE 061402

1. SEEMS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT URUGUAY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SELLING MEAT TO USSR OR THAT USSR WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING FROM URUGUAY IN 1976. URUGUAY HEADED FOR BEST YEAR EVER FOR MEAT EXPORTS, NO LONGER UNDER PRESSURE TO SELL AND WILL BE BARGAINING FOR GOOD PRICES, WHICH USSR IS NOT NOTED FOR PAYING.

2. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT 102,000 TONS (PRODUCT WEIGHT) OF MEAT AND PRODUCTS ALREADY SOLD FOR JANUARY-JUNE EXPORT. TO THIS MUST NOW ADD 12,000 TONS MORE RECENTLY SOLD TO SPAIN AND POTENTIAL LARGE SALE LATER IN YEAR TO BRAZIL. IN ALL OF 1975, COUNTRY ONLY EXPORTED 106,381 TONS VERSUS 115,730 IN 1974 AND 109,108 IN 1973. HOWEVER, WOULD APPEAR THAT IF EXPORTS WERE TO GREATLY EXCEED 150,000 TONS (PRODUCT WEIGHT), THIS MIGHT HAVE INFLATIONARY IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY AS CONSUMPTION WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY EITHER VIA HIGHER PRICES OR A CONSUMPTION BAN.

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3. LAST YEAR, USSR SENT MEAT MISSION TO URUGUAY AND ALTHOUGH INDICATIONS WERE THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN WILLING TO PURCHASE BEEF EVEN THOUGH THEY CLAIMED PLANTS (PRESUMABLY OLD NATIONAL ONES) NOT UP TO THEIR SANITARY NORMS, WE BELIEVE ANY POSSIBLE DEAL WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE FELL THROUGH BECAUSE OF POLITICAL REASONS. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SITUATION HAS CHANGED.

4. IF CONDITIONS IN LOCAL MEAT EXPORT MARKET CHANGE, THEY WILL BE REPORTED.
HAAHR

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